

SEP 30 1967

FOIAb3b

E. Germans Sentence American as a CIA Spy

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

BERLIN, Sept. 29 (AP)—A U.S. spokesman in West Berlin said the American mission had no comment. [A State Department spokesman said there would be no official comment at this time but that the matter was being looked into. The CIA also had no comment.]

Communist East Germany, after holding a 27-year-old American nearly a year, sentenced him to 15 years' imprisonment on charges that he was an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The official East German news agency, ADN, said an East Berlin court found Peter Feinauer of Providence, R.I., guilty of spying for the American intelligence organization. His arrest Oct. 7, 1966, was kept secret by East Germans and U.S. authorities in West Berlin. His mother, Victoria Feinauer, living in West Berlin, reported her son's arrest last February.

Told of the charges that alleged her son was a CIA agent, Mrs. Feinauer told a newspaper: "Oh, that's crazy." She called his 15-year sentence "a bitter pill to swallow."

A U.S. spokesman in West Berlin said the American mission had no comment. [A State Department spokesman said there would be no official comment at this time but that the matter was being looked into. The CIA also had no comment.]

The East German news agency, ADN, reported Feinauer had been convicted of espionage, of propaganda endangering the state and of agitation and other unspecified crimes. ADN said Feinauer, who had lived in West Berlin since 1959, had been recruited by the CIA in October, 1961, and had been excused from U.S. military service so long as he worked for the agency. As a cover for his activities, ADN said, he studied art and worked as a taxi driver.